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ANNUAL REPORT  
ON THE HEALTH  
OF THE  
COWES URBAN DISTRICT

BY

JOHN MILLS,

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*Medical Officer of Health.*

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COUNTY HALL,

NEWPORT, I.W.

November, 1952.

*To the Members of the Cowes Urban District Council :—*

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report on the health of the District for the year 1951.

There was a small decline in the birth rate from 13.8 to 13 and the death rate fell from 13.4 to 12.7.

The still birth rate rose from 20.7 to 39.3, but the infantile mortality rate fell from 21.1 to 18.2, the rate for England and Wales being 29.6. In 1949 it was 24.9.

Out of the 216 deaths which occurred during the year—95 were due to heart disease and 37 due to cancer, so that these two diseases alone accounted for 132 or 61.1 per cent. of the total deaths.

During the year there were no deaths from diphtheria, poliomyelitis, measles, whooping cough or enteritis.

Of the 193 infectious cases notified 128 were due to whooping cough and 52 due to measles.

One case only of poliomyelitis occurred.

No cases of food poisoning were notified.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

JOHN MILLS,

*Medical Officer of Health.*

## PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS, 1951.

Medical Officer of Health:—

JOHN MILLS, M.D., Ch.B., M.R.C.S. (Eng.), L.R.C.P.  
(Lond.), D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector:—

J. W. BROMLEY, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

## GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area in acres ... ... ... ... ... ...	5542
No. of inhabited houses (end of 1951) per rate books	5000
	(approx.)
Rateable value ... ... ... ... ...	£113,627

Sum represented by a penny rate ... ... ... £447

## SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

These are unchanged since the last report.

## EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS.

Population (Registrar General's Figures) ... ...	16,980
Live birth rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population ... ... ... ...	13.0
Comparative factor ... ... ... ...	1.06
Comparative Birth rate ... ... ... ...	13.7
Still birth rate per 1000 total (live and still) births ...	39.3
Crude Death rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population ... ... ... ...	12.7
Comparative factor ... ... ... ...	0.82
Comparative Death rate ... ... ... ...	10.4
Puerperal death rate per 1000 total (live and still births) ... ... ... ...	4.2

Infantile Mortality:—

All infants per 1000 live births ... ... ...	18.2
Legitimate infants per 1000 legitimate births ...	13.8
Illegitimate infants per 1000 illegitimate births ...	333.3
Deaths from Cancer (all ages) ... ... ...	37
Deaths from Measles (all ages) ... ... ...	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) ...	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) ...	Nil

## BIRTHS.

The total number of live births was 220, giving a live birth rate per 1000 living of 13.0, the corresponding rate for England and Wales being 15.5.

## DEATHS.

The number of deaths was 216 giving a death rate of 12.7 per 1000 of the estimated resident population. The corresponding rate for England and Wales was 12.5.

## CAUSES OF DEATH.

CAUSE		MALE	FEMALE
Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	3	1
Tuberculosis, other	...	—	—
Syphilitic disease	...	—	—
Diphtheria	...	—	—
Whooping Cough	...	—	—
Meningococcal infections	...	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	...	—	—
Measles	...	—	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	—	—
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	6	3
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	2	1
Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	—	5
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	—	1
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	13	—	6
Leukæmia, aleukæmia	...	1	—
Diabetes	...	—	—
Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	8	13
Coronary disease, angina	...	18	13
Hypertension with heart disease	...	2	3
Other heart disease	...	22	37
Other circulatory disease	...	3	—
Influenza	...	2	4
Pneumonia	...	—	2
Bronchitis	...	5	7
Other diseases of respiratory system	...	4	—
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	2	—
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	—	1
Nephritis and nephrosis	...	2	—
Hyperplasia of prostate	...	3	—
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	—	1
Congenital malformations	...	—	—
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	11	—	5
Motor vehicle accidents	...	1	—
All other accidents	...	3	1
Suicide	...	1	—
Homicide and operations of war	...	—	—
ALL CAUSES	...	112	104

## INFANTILE MORTALITY.

The Infantile Mortality rate was 18.2 per 1000 registered live births, the rate for England and Wales being 29.6.

## HOUSING.

The position in respect of housing is still serious. Over-crowding is still common. Dark, damp houses that are in all respects no longer fit for human habitation are from stark necessity still in occupation. Many of the occupied properties, but for the war, would long since have been demolished. The chief sufferers, if one can possibly make any differentiation in the miseries concomitant with bad houses are the children, the sick, the aged, young married couples, and those suffering from diseases such as tuberculosis, and the rheumatic infections.

Bad housing conditions may well be an important factor in some of the social evils of our time such as juvenile delinquency.

The Council are doing everything in their power to provide excellent well appointed houses for all, but the rate of supply falls short of the requirements.

## PUBLIC CLEANSING.

### **Refuse.**

There is a daily collection of refuse from the town shopping area and from the remainder of the district a collection is made once a week.

The following schedule gives particulars regarding the operation of the service during the year and I am indebted to the Engineer and Surveyor for the figures :—

No. of Vehicles.	Approx. Tons per week.	Number of vehicle loads.	Mileage.	Disposal.
3	100	65-70 per week	180 per week	<i>West Cowes</i> Old Oyster beds. <i>East Cowes</i> Land adjoining cemetery.

The refuse tips are in a very bad state largely owing to the difficulty and expense of obtaining covering material. An incinerator would prove a useful and satisfactory alternative.

### RAT INFESTATION.

District	Properties Inspected	Properties Treated		Total dealt with by local Authority
		Rats	Mice	
Cowes	771	103	57	159

**Council Refuse Tips and Sewage Beds** kept under supervision and treated when necessary.

**Sewers** treated regularly as per Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries instructions.

### SWIMMING POOL.

The swimming pool water at Gurnard Pines Holiday Camp was subjected to regular analysis and was found to be satisfactory.

### DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

During the year, the 15 inch cast iron outfall at Sun Slip has been renewed at a cost of approximately £800, and a section of the 12 inch diameter cast iron outfall at the Post Office Slip has also been replaced with new pipes.

In addition, any fractures revealed in the remaining outfalls have been repaired.

Following a very heavy thunder storm on 30th July, when 2.43 inches of rain fell in 45 minutes, considerable flooding occurred.

A 24 inch sewer in East Cowes, and a 12 inch sewer under the railway embankment at West Cowes, were fractured, necessitating extensive repairs.

## **HOUSING.**

Two hundred and fourteen houses were inspected under the Public Health and Housing Acts 1936, and as a result various defects were found to exist.

Two hundred and one houses have been put into a fit state by formal notices leaving thirteen houses where repairs had not been completed.

Two Statutory Notices under the Public Health Act and Housing Acts 1936, were served during the year, one of these had not been complied with at the end of the year.

Four hundred and twenty six visits were made as continual inspections of Council Houses and Council owned property.

During the year the number of houses built was 64, made up as follows :—

Local Authority ...	...	52
Private Enterprise	...	10
War Damage Reinstatements		2
		—
Total	64	—

## FOOD HYGIENE.

### *Food and Drugs Act, 1938.*

All shops selling foodstuffs have been supplied with a card marked "Dogs," as suggested by the Ministry.

These notices were well received by the tradesmen concerned and the public are responding to the request to keep dogs out of the shops.

Upon inspection and observations of these premises, it was found that efforts were being made by all concerned to carry out the conditions as set out in the byelaws, and no infringements were dealt with.

## ICE CREAM.

Continued supervision of the manufacturers and retailers of Ice Cream has been maintained and the products controlled by the weekly samples of Ice Cream. All samples of Ice Cream which did not come up to Grade 1 standard were followed up and the cause found and remedied.

There is only one manufacturer and seventy-seven retailers of Ice Cream and with a few exceptions all Ice Cream is sold prepacked.

During the year 70 samples of Ice Cream were procured and submitted to the Pathologist, Royal I.W. County Hospital for examination and were graded as follows:—

Grade 1	...	59
„ 2	...	7
„ 3	...	4
„ 4	...	—

**FOOD AND DRUGS (MILK AND DAIRIES) ACTS 1944.  
URBAN DISTRICT OF COWES.**

Samples of milk were taken during the year from herds whose milk is retailed raw without heat treatment. These samples were examined at the Public Health Laboratory, Winchester, for the presence of live Tuberclle Bacilli. The results for the year under review were 100 per cent. satisfactory.

Number of samples taken for T.B. during 1951	...	26
Number of samples found to be positive	...	nil
Number of samples in which Brucella Abortus was isolated	...	nil

**PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS  
AND OTHER DISEASES.**

There were 193 notifications of infectious diseases. There were no cases of Diphtheria. Immunisation against Diphtheria continued throughout the year. Of the children under five 36.85 per cent. are immunised, and of children of school age 62.66 per cent are immunised.

Non-notifiable Infectious Diseases among school children.

Mumps	...	...	...	22
Chicken Pox	...	...	...	33
Ringworm	...	...	...	—
Scabies	...	...	...	—
German Measles	...	...	...	—
Influenza	...	...	...	—
				—
				55
				—

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

All animals are slaughtered at Government controlled Slaughter Houses in Newport or Wroxall.

When carcases and offal arrive at the Allocation Centre, weekly inspection is again carried out before being passed on to local butchers.

### UNSOOUND FOOD 1951

					lbs.
Topside Beef	...	...	...	...	34
Bacon	...	...	...	...	44
Flaked Rice	...	...	...	...	20
Chitterlings	...	...	...	...	36
Dutch Biscuits	...	...	...	...	30
Flour	...	...	...	...	9
14-6lb. tins Corned Beef	...	...	...	...	84
19-12oz. , , ,	...	...	...	...	$14\frac{1}{4}$
20 tins Ham (Imported)	...	...	...	...	336

In addition 1121 tins containing fish, fruit, vegetables, milk, etc., and weighing 1280 lbs., were found to be unsound and unfit for human consumption.

All were disposed of in accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Food.

## NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR

Disease.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Food Poisoning ...	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infec- tion ... ...	—	—	—
Smallpox ... ...	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ... ...	3	3	—
Diphtheria ... ...	—	—	—
Enteric Fever (includ- ing Paratyphoid) ...	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	1	—	—
Pneumonia ... ...	2	—	—
Erysipelas ... ...	1	—	—
Encephalitis Lethargica ...	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis ... ...	1	1	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	—	—	—
Measles ... ...	52	2	—
Whooping Cough ... ...	128	1	—
Malaria ... ...	—	—	—
Dysentery ... ...	5	5	—
Totals ...	193	12	—

## AGE AT DATE OF NOTIFICATION.

Age.		Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Enteric Fever	Puerperal Pyrexia	Pneumonia	Erysipelas	Whooping Cough	Measles	Meningococcal Infection	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Acute Poliomyelitis	Food Poisoning	Dysentery
Under 1														
1 and under	2													
2	"	3												
3	"	4												
4	"	5	1											
5	"	10	1											
10	"	15	1											
15	"	20												
20	"	35												
35	"	45												
45	"	65												
65 and over														
Totals		3												
			1	2			1	128	52				1	
														5

## TUBERCULOSIS.

AGE PERIODS.	Totals.	New Cases.				Totals.	Deaths.				
		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary			Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		
		M	F	M	F		M	F	M	F	
0 and under 1											
1 "	5										
5 "	10	2									
10 "	15	3									
15 "	20										
20 "	25	1									
25 "	35	6	2	2							
35 "	45	1	1								
45 "	55	3	1								
55 "	65	3	1	1	1						
65 and upwards		1		1							
Total ...*	20	5	5	2	8	4	3	1	—	—	

\*Included in this total are two transfers from the mainland.

## FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

Particulars of the administration of the Factories Act, 1937,  
Parts I and VIII administered by the Council.

### PART I OF THE ACT.

#### 1.—INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	46	31	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	27	19	—	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	10	6	—	—
Total ...	83	56	—	—

## 2.—CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they are reckoned as two, three or more "cases.")

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	4	4	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ...	—	—	—	1	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) insufficient... ...	2	2	—	1	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ... ...	3	3	—	—	—
(c) not separate for sexes	—	—	—	1	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Total ...	9	9	—	3	—

## PART VIII OF THE ACT.

### OUTWORK. (Sections 110 and 111.)

Nature of Work	Section 110			Section 111		
	No. of out-workers in August list required by Sect. 110 (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
Wearing } Making, etc. apparel } Cleaning and washing	—	—	—	—	—	—
Lampshades	125	—	—	—	—	—
Other classes of work	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total ...	125	—	—	—	—	—

